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CORE SECTOR OUTPUT RISES TO A 13-MONTH HIGH OF 6.3% IN AUGUST

India's eight key infrastructure sectors' growth jumped to a 13-month high on account of expansion in coal, steel, and cement production

AUGUST NUMBERS FLIP MUTED JULY FIGURES

The core sectors' output growth was 3.7 per cent in the previous month of July. It was (-) 1.5 per cent in August last year. Earlier, the similar pace of growth at 6.3 per cent was recorded in July 2024. During April-August of this fiscal year, the eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 2.8 per cent, compared to a rise of 4.6 per cent in the same period last year

STEEL, CEMENT PRODUCTION LED GROWTH

- Coal, steel, and cement production rose to 11.4 per cent, 14.2 per cent and 6.1 per cent, respectively, during August, the data showed
- Refinery products, fertiliser, and electricity output rose by 3 per cent, 4.6 per cent, and 3.1 per cent respectively within the same time span. However, crude oil and natural gas recorded negative growth | P15

-1.5%

WAS THE CORE SECTOR OUTPUT GROWTH IN AUGUST LAST YEAR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Car showrooms, retail outlets, online platforms witness record sales on Day 1

GST 2.0 kicks in, sees festive buying rush

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

CAR showrooms, retail outlets, and e-commerce platforms saw brisk sales on the first day of GST 2.0 on Monday, which coincided with the start of the festive season. Fuelled by the pent-up demand and sharp reduction in prices on the back of lower tax rates under the new GST regime, shoppers flocked to marketplaces as businesses lined up additional discounts to cash in on the rush.

Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer, marketing & sales at Maruti Suzuki, said customers' response has been phenomenal.

"We recorded 80,000 enquiries, and have already delivered over 25,000 cars, with deliveries expected to touch 30,000 shortly. Since September 18 when we announced additional price reduction (over and above GST), we have received 75,000 bookings, with nearly 15,000 bookings coming in every day—50% higher than usual," said Banerjee.

Tarun Garg, whole-time director and COO at Hyundai Motor India, said the festive mood, boosted by GST reforms, has infused strong positivity into the market. On Monday, Hyundai recorded 11,000 dealer billings—its highest single-day performance in five years.

Amit Kamat, chief commercial officer at Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, said the rate cut has led to a surge in bookings, with a spike in showroom walk-ins, higher conversions, and a growing order book.

"Our dealerships have opened early and extended their working hours to welcome the festive rush. With a strong pipeline of bookings and scheduled deliveries, we are fully geared to meet the festive demand and are optimistic about setting new records this festive season," said Kumar.

The automotive industry is estimated to have seen a 20-30% surge in bookings.

The white goods segment also witnessed an uptick in bookings and sales on Monday as GST on air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, and large-screen TVs dropped from 28% to 18%.

NO DIWALI GIFTS: GOVT

While govt has extended festive cheer to the public, it asked its offices not to spend on gifts. "No expenditure shall be incurred on gifts... for Diwali and other festivals by Ministries/Depts," read a circular by P K Singh, joint secretary, Dept of Expenditure

GST SAVINGS FEST BEGINS, TIME TO GO SWADESHI

My Fellow Indians,
Namaskar!

The Next Generation GST reforms have begun to make their presence felt, marking the start of a 'GST Bachat Utsav' or 'GST Savings Festival' across the country

These reforms will boost savings and directly benefit every section of society, be it farmers, women, youth, poor, middle class, traders or MSMEs

Heartening to see various shopkeepers and traders putting up 'then and now' boards which indicate taxes pre-reforms and post-reforms

Income tax cuts and Next Gen GST reforms taken together add up to savings of nearly ₹2.5 lakh crore for the people

This festive season, let us also resolve to support products that are Made in India. This means buying Swadeshi products that have the sweat and toil of an Indian involved in their making, irrespective of the brand or the company that makes them

I appeal to our shopkeepers and traders to sell products that are Made in India. Let us proudly say – what we buy is Swadeshi

NARENDRA MODI

HICCUPS GALORE

Survey faces tech snags, gets off to slow start

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE Socio, Economic and Educational Survey-2025 by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes encountered many hiccups, including a PIL before the high court seeking postponement, and got off to a slow start on its first day on Monday. Enumerators across the state complained that they faced technical glitches including problems in logging on to the mobile application, server issues and lack of proper training.

In Kalaburagi, Ballari, Hubballi, Shivamogga and Haveri districts, the enumerators, who are teachers, faced technical glitches and the survey was delayed.

It did not take off in Bengaluru, except in its rural parts, as enumerators had not been trained because of issues arising out of the capital city being divided into five corporations and an overarching body, the Greater Bengaluru Authority, being formed.

Commission Chairman Madhusudan R Naik, dismissing rumours of the survey getting postponed, expressed confidence that the high court will not interfere in it. "There is no question of postponing the survey. We are (the commission) a legitimate constitutional body. No one can pressure us. Some people have filed a writ petition in the court seeking postponement. The commission has been made a respondent in this petition. The complainant has requested an interim order. We have not added any new caste, nor have we given importance to castes. That is why we think the court will not interfere," he said.

"We are conducting a social and educational survey. We are not conducting a caste census. Since there is a central government census, some people are creating this misconception that we are conducting a caste census. This may be due to political opposition or misconception. This is betrayal of seven crore people of the state. We will go to court to take action against those spreading such false news," he said. P4

HC to hear pleas for stay of survey

The Karnataka High Court posted a batch of petitions questioning the legality of the Karnataka Social-Educational Survey for a hearing on an interim plea to stay the survey for Tuesday | P4

The CM, who should be thinking about the development of the state, is involving himself in attempts to divide Hindu society. This is unfortunate

B Y Vijayendra, K'taka BJP president

EXPRESS READ

DA case against DKS: SC bench to hear CBI plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said a bench led by Justice Surya Kant would take up hearing on the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate a disproportionate assets case against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar | P7

8-yr-old boy swept away at Murudeshwar beach

Murudeshwar: An eight-year-old boy from Bengaluru was swept away by strong waves at Murudeshwar beach in Uttara Kannada district on Monday morning. The child, identified as Kritik Reddy, had come to Murudeshwar with his parents and extended family on a holiday on Sunday | P3

Passenger tries to open cockpit door on AI flight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A passenger on an Air India Express flight (IX-1086) from Bengaluru to Varanasi on Monday attempted to enter the aircraft's cockpit, claiming that he tried to open it by mistake as he is a first-time flyer and was looking for the toilet, sources said.

He also tried to enter a code into the passcode-controlled locking mechanism, but was unsuccessful, the sources said.

The passenger and eight of his companions on the flight were handed over to security officials at the Varanasi airport.

There was some speculation that he had entered the correct passcode, but sources with direct knowledge of the matter said that was not the case. The cockpit access code is known only to the pilots and the cabin crew.

The flight took off from the Kempegowda International Airport at 8 am and landed in Varanasi at 10.27 am, 10 minutes earlier than the scheduled time. CONTINUED ON P7

Dasara a heartbeat, gives message of harmony: Banu

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

MYSURU Dasara is not just a festival, but the very heartbeat of the land. It is a celebration of culture that unites people beyond boundaries, said International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq, inaugurating Mysuru Dasara here on Monday. After floral offerings to Goddess Chamundeshwari, she said Dasara transcends religion, caste and language, and urged people to embrace harmony in a world torn apart by violence and hatred.

In the run-up to the Dasara, Mushtaq had faced opposition over the inauguration of the festivities as she is from the minority community. She said, "What cannot be won with weapons can be won with words. Life blossoms not through hatred, but through love. Dasara is not just a festival but the pulse of our people, a cultural confluence that binds us all."

She said her personal journey taught her that the true path of life lies in moving from individuality to collectivity. She described her philosophy of life as "Jeevapara", comparing it to the shade of a tree or the coolness of a flowing river in a burning world.

Recalling the legacy of Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, with whom her uncle was a sepoy, she said the king had Muslim bodyguards in his service, which is an example of harmony and trust.

"Democracy is not just a system, but a value. It is about respecting every voice, living meaningfully in each others' lives, and recognising that the earth does not reject us, the sky does not divide us. Only humans draw boundaries," she said. P4

Writer Banu Mushtaq, CM Siddaramaiah and others offer flowers to Goddess Chamundeshwari in Mysuru on Monday | UDAYASHANKAR S

EAM, Rubio hold wide-ranging discussion

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday held their first in-person meeting ever since Washington imposed steep tariffs on key Indian exports over Delhi's continued purchases of Russian oil.

Following the meeting in New York, Jaishankar posted on X that both sides "agreed on the importance of sustained engagement" on priority areas, signaling a mutual intent to keep the dialogue open amid rising trade and geopolitical tensions. "Our conversation covered a range of bilateral and international issues of current concern. Agreed on the importance of sustained engagement to progress on priority areas," Jaishankar said.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and comes as India-US trade talks resume in Washington, led by Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal. These negotiations follow a shift in tone from President Donald Trump, who recently indicated his administration was working to resolve key trade irritants with India, which still remains a work in progress.

Sources said the Jaishankar–Rubio talks covered a wide range of bilateral and global issues, including economic cooperation, energy security, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. Monday's talks are seen as a crucial step in stabilising the broader India-US strategic partnership, which remains strong on defence, tech and Indo-Pacific coordination.

S Jaishankar

Marco Rubio

Hangyo® ICE CREAM

Exotic Tubs (500ml)

	Old	New
Pista	₹140	₹125
Strawberry	₹140	₹125
Vanilla	₹140	₹125
Butter Scotch	₹160	₹140
Mango	₹160	₹140
Rich Dry Fruits	₹160	₹140
Kaju Draksh	₹160	₹140
Anjir	₹170	₹150
Chikku	₹170	₹150
Belgian Chocolate	₹180	₹160

Less upto ₹20

Kulfi (50ml)

	Old	New
Rose	₹40	₹35
Mango	₹40	₹35
Kesar Pista	₹40	₹35
Malai	₹40	₹35
Matka Kulfi 100ml	₹50	₹45

Less ₹5

Taste As Sweet No Added Sugar

(125ml)	Old	New
Kesar Almond	₹60	₹55
Vanilla	₹60	₹55

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE PACK 700ml (Each)

Less upto ₹40

	Old	New
Vanilla + Vanilla	₹220	₹200
Strawberry + Strawberry	₹220	₹200
Pista + Pista	₹220	₹200
Mango + Mango	₹280	₹250
Chocolate + Chocolate	₹300	₹270
Butterscotch + Butterscotch	₹300	₹270
Kulfi + Kulfi	₹340	₹300
Sitaphal + Sitaphal	₹340	₹300
Rich Dry Fruits + Rich Dry Fruits	₹340	₹300
Rajbhog + Rajbhog	₹400	₹360

Exotic Tubs (1000ml)

	Old	New
Creamy Vanilla	₹240	₹210
Strawberry	₹240	₹210
Nutty Pista	₹260	₹230
Butterscotch	₹260	₹230
Kaju Draksh	₹300	₹270
Coffee Choconuts	₹300	₹270
Van Choco Chips	₹300	₹270
Black Currant	₹300	₹270
Van-Choco Ripple	₹300	₹270
Pink Guava	₹300	₹270
Anjir	₹320	₹290
Chikku	₹320	₹290
Roasted Almond	₹350	₹320
Belgian Chocolate	₹350	₹320
Rajbhog	₹350	₹320

Less ₹30

Bars

	Old	New
Berry & Cream 50ml	₹40	₹35
Toffee Almond 50ml	₹50	₹45
Triple Chocobar 60ml	₹50	₹45

Sweet Happiness at lower prices

Hangyo is committed to pass on the GST reduction benefits on your favourite ice creams

Made Creamy. Made Happy.

Cones (110ml)

	Old	New
Vanilla	₹35	₹30
Black Currant	₹40	₹35
Butterscotch	₹40	₹35
Strawberry Jam	₹40	₹35
Chocolate	₹45	₹40
Rajbhog Cone	₹50	₹45
Belgian Chocolate	₹60	₹55

Less ₹5

Exotic Cups (125ml)

	Old	New
Rich Dry Fruits	₹50	₹45
Sitaphal	₹50	₹45
Roasted Almond	₹50	₹45
Rajbhog	₹60	₹55
Belgian Chocolate	₹60	₹55

Novelties

	Old	New
Raspberry Dolly 60ml	₹20	₹15
Pop - Up 100ml	₹30	₹25
Gudbud 100ml	₹40	₹35
Fun Treat - Mango 125ml	₹40	₹35
Fun Treat - Black Currant 125ml	₹40	₹35
Fun Treat - Chocolate 125ml	₹50	₹45
Cassatta 100ml	₹50	₹45
Double Sundae 170ml	₹60	₹55

Small Cups (30ml)

	Old	New
Vanilla	₹6	₹5
Strawberry	₹6	₹5
Pista	₹6	₹5

Less ₹5 NEW ARRIVALS

Sorbet Jamun 60ml — Old ₹30 New ₹25

Fusion Bar Mango Vanilla 60ml — Old ₹30 New ₹25

Rave Choco Roadie 60ml — Old ₹60 New ₹55

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New MRP is effective from 22/09/2025 | T&C apply